

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention, as set forth in claims 1-27, relates to devices for dispensing cosmetic and care substances and receptacles fitted with the devices.

In particular, as illustrated in the specification, from paragraphs [0042] - [0077], and the figures, independent claim 1 is directed to a receptacle containing a cosmetic or care substance including a dispenser comprising two parts. See, for example, Figures 1, 2, 4 and 5, where a device 20 comprises two parts 30,40. The first part has a first surface, and is attached to a receptacle. The second part has a second surface. See, for example, Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7, where a first part 30 has a first surface 60 or 60' and is attached to a receptacle 10, and a second part 40 has a second surface 80 or 80'. A dispenser opening orifice is formed between the first and second surfaces. The dispenser orifice opens out directly to the environment. See, for example, Figures 1 and 4-7, where a dispenser orifice 90 that connects the interior of the device 20 to the outside environment is formed between the end wall 37 of the first part 30 and the top wall 42 of the second part, and is defined by the gap between the first surface 60 or 60' of the end wall 37 and the second surface 80 or 80' of the top wall 42. In addition, and again as recited in claim 1, the second part is adapted for rotational mounting relative to the first part, in which the second part is capable of rotating between a dispensing position and a closed position. See, for example, Figures 4 and 5, where the second part 40 is positioned so as to be rotatable around the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30 from a dispensing position (shown in Figure 5) and a closed or non-dispensing position (shown in Figure 4). As described in the specification, in paragraphs [0069] - [0073], the dispensing position is capable of permitting a substance contained in the receptacle to exit or leave the device through the dispenser

orifice. The closed position is capable of preventing a substance contained in the receptacle from passing from the receptacle to the dispenser orifice.

The feature of a first part attached to a receptacle, as recited in claim 1, is exemplified in relief in Figures 4 and 5. Specifically, the first part 30, which is fixed on an oblong body 12 of the receptacle 10, includes a tubular outer skirt 31, transverse wall 32, tubular extension 33 and an assembly skirt 34. The tubular outer skirt 31 extends the outer surface of the receptacle 10. The transverse wall 32, which extends inwardly and generally perpendicularly from the tubular outer skirt 31, forms a top for the receptacle 10. The tubular extension 33 connects to the neck 11 of the receptacle 10 and to the transverse wall 32, such that tubular extension 33 is positioned on top of the neck 11 and inward from the transverse wall 32. Together, the tubular outer skirt 31, transverse wall 32 and assembly skirt 34 form a base connected to and surrounding the neck 11 and the lower end of the tubular extension 33 that is connected to the neck 11. The tubular extension 33 extends upwardly relative to the transverse wall 32, and includes an upper end wall 37, an annular bead 38, and a lateral opening 50.

As recited in claim 1, the second part is adapted for rotational mounting relative to the first part. In particular, the second part 40 surrounds the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30 and sits on top of the aforementioned base. The second part 40 includes an outer skirt 41, a top wall 42, and an inner skirt 43. The outer skirt 41, which is connected to the top wall 42, has axial ribs (not shown in the drawings) formed on its radially inner surface (*i.e.*, the surface opposite the transverse wall 32) that cooperate with two thin splines 39 of the transverse wall 32 so as to create a hard point in the turning movement of the second part 40 and so as to make it easier to position the outer skirt 41 so that it extends the outer skirt 31. The inner skirt 43 includes an annular rib 44 and a notch 45. The inner skirt is snap-fastened on the annular bead 38 of the tubular extension 33 via the annular rib 44. The notch 45 forms a chamber communicating with the

lateral opening 50 when the second part is rotated into a dispensing position, as explained below.

As shown in Figures 1 and 4-7, the top wall 42 of the second part has an opening (which in the preferred embodiment is circular) into which the end wall 37 of the first part extends. A gap is thus formed between the two parts 30,40 at the top of the device 20 to form a dispenser orifice 90. Specifically, this gap or dispenser orifice 90 is formed between the end wall 37 of the tubular extension 33 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40. As depicted in Figure 6, the space *j* between the end wall 37 and top wall 42 may be substantially constant, and the dispenser orifice 90 is defined by the gap between the facing surfaces 60 and 80 of the end wall 37 and top wall 42 respectively. Alternatively, as depicted in Figure 7, the space between the end wall 37 and top wall 42 may also not be substantially constant, and the dispenser orifice (denoted by 90' instead of 90) is instead defined by the gap between the facing surfaces 60' and 80' of the end wall 37 and top wall 42 respectively. As shown in Figure 1, the dispenser orifice 90 is annular, surrounded on the outside by the cylindrical wall 80 defining the opening in the top wall 42 of the second part 40 and on the inside by the cylindrical wall 60 provided by the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30. As illustrated in Figures 1, 4, and 5, the dispenser orifice 90 connects a setback 52 in the device 20 and the outside or environment. Thus, together, the end wall 37 of the tubular extension 33 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40 form a dispenser orifice 90 that opens out directly to the outside or the environment, as described in claim 1.

The basic functional aspects of the device 20 are described in paragraphs [0069]-[0075] of the specification. As described, and again as recited in claim 1, the second part 40 is capable of being rotated between a closed position and a dispensing position. As shown in Figure 4, in a closed position, the lateral opening 50 in the first part 30 is closed by the inner skirt 43 of the second part 40. By rotating the second part 40 relative to the first part 30, the device 20 may be brought into

a dispensing position. The dispensing position brings the notch 45 of the inner skirt 43 into register with a setback 52, which allows a substance to flow from the lateral opening 50 towards the dispenser orifice 90. In this manner, a substance may be distributed from the receptacle 10 (through its neck 11) into the tubular extension 33, from the tubular extension (through its lateral opening 50) into the notch 45, from the notch 45 into the setback 52, and from the setback 52 through the annular dispenser orifice 90 to the outside or environment.

As described in the specification at paragraphs [0042] – [0077] and illustrated in the figures, independent claim 17 is directed to a device comprising two parts. See, for example, Figures 1, 2, 4 and 5, where a device 20 comprises two parts 30, 40. The first part has a first surface, and is adapted for attaching to a receptacle. The second part has a second surface. See, for example, Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7, where a first part 30 has a first surface 60 or 60' and is adapted for attaching to a receptacle 10, and a second part 40 has a second surface 80 or 80'. A dispenser orifice 90 formed between the first and second surfaces opens out directly to the environment. See, for example, Figures 1 and 4-7, where a dispenser orifice 90 that connects the interior of the device 20 to the outside environment is formed between the end wall 37 of the first part 30 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40, and is defined by the gap j between the first surface 60 or 60' of the end wall 37 and the second surface 80 or 80' of the top wall 42.

As recited in claim 17, the second part is adapted for rotational movement relative to the first part, wherein the second part is capable of rotating between a dispensing position and a closed position. As shown in, for example, Figures 4 and 5, the second part 40 is positioned so as to be rotatable around the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30 between a dispensing position (shown in Figure 5) and a closed or non-dispensing position (shown in Figure 4). The specification at

paragraphs [0069] - [0073] describes the rotation of the second part 40 through half a turn relative to the first part 30 to bring the dispenser from a closed position to a dispensing position. The dispensing position is capable of permitting a substance contained in the receptacle to exit or leave the device through the dispenser orifice 90. The closed position closes communication between the dispenser orifice 90 and the inside of the receptacle 10, and therefore is capable of preventing a substance contained in the receptacle from passing from the receptacle to the dispenser orifice.

The feature of a first part for attaching to a receptacle, as recited in claim 17, is exemplified by the cross-sectional views of Figures 4 and 5. In particular, the first part 30, which is fixed on an oblong body 12 of the receptacle 10, includes a tubular outer skirt 31, a transverse wall 32, a tubular extension 33 and an assembly skirt 34. The tubular outer skirt 31 extends the outer surface of the receptacle 10. The transverse wall 32, which extends inwardly from the tubular outer skirt 31, supports tubular extension 33. The tubular extension 33 projects upwardly relative to the transverse wall 32, and includes an upper end wall 37, an annular bead 38, and a lateral opening 50. The assembly skirt 34 is positioned inwardly of outer skirt 31, and includes teeth 35 for attaching the first part to the neck 11 of the receptacle 10. Together, the tubular outer skirt 31, transverse wall 32 and assembly skirt 34 form a base connected to and surrounding the neck 11 and supporting the tubular extension 33.

As recited in claim 17, the second part is adapted for rotational movement relative to the first part. In particular, the second part 40 surrounds the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30 and sits on top of the aforementioned base. The second part 40 includes an outer skirt 41, a top wall 42, and an inner skirt 43. The inner skirt 43 includes an annular rib 44

and a notch 45. The inner skirt is snap-fastened on the annular bead 38 of the tubular extension 33 via the annular rib 44. The notch 45 forms a chamber communicating with the lateral opening 50 when the second part is rotated into a dispensing position, as explained below.

As shown in Figures 1 and 4-7, the top wall 42 of the second part has an opening (which in the preferred embodiment is circular) into which the end wall 37 of the first part extends. A gap is thus formed between the two parts 30, 40 at the top of the device 20 to form a dispenser orifice 90. Specifically, this gap or dispenser orifice 90 is formed between the end wall 37 of the tubular extension 33 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40. As depicted in Figure 6, the dispenser orifice 90 may be defined by a substantially constant gap j between the facing surfaces 60 and 80 of the end wall 37 and top wall 42, respectively. Alternatively, as depicted in Figure 7, the dispenser orifice 90' may be defined by a gap j which is not substantially constant between the facing surfaces 60' and 80' of the end wall 37 and top wall 42, respectively. As shown in Figure 1, the dispenser orifice 90 is annular, surrounded on the outside by the cylindrical wall 80 defining the opening in the top wall 42 of the second part 40 and defined on the inside by the cylindrical wall 60 provided by the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30. As illustrated in Figures 1, 4 and 5, the dispenser orifice 90 connects a setback 52 in the device 20 and the outside or environment. Thus, together, the end wall 37 of the tubular extension 33 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40 form a dispenser orifice 90 that opens out directly to the outside or the environment, as described in claim 17.

The basic functional aspects of the device 20 are described in paragraphs [0069] - [0075] of the specification. As described, and again as recited in claim 17, the second part 40 is capable of rotating between a dispensing position and a

closed position. As shown in Figure 4, in the closed position, the lateral opening 50 in the first part 30 is closed by the inner skirt 43 of the second part 40. By rotating the second part 40 relative to the first part 30, the device 20 may be brought into a dispensing position. The dispensing position brings the notch 45 of the inner skirt 43 into registration with the setback 52, which allows a substance to flow from the lateral opening 50 towards the dispenser orifice 90. In this manner, a substance may be distributed from the receptacle 10 (through its neck 11) into the tubular extension 33, from the tubular extension (through its lateral opening 50) into the notch 45, from the notch 45 into the setback 52, and from the setback 52 through the annular dispenser orifice 90 to the outside or environment.

Claim 17 requires the first and second parts to comprise first and second portions in addition to first and second surfaces. Moreover, the first and second portions comprise first and second outer surfaces in which one of the first and second outer surfaces is the continuation of the other of the first and second outer surfaces. Figures 1, 4 and 5 together show that the end wall 37 and the top wall 42 have respective top surfaces 37b and 42b that extend each other, such that the top surfaces 37b and 42b are continuations of one another, with only the gap formed by the dispenser orifice 90 between them.

Independent claim 18 is directed to a device containing a cosmetic or care substance including a dispenser comprising two parts. A device 20 according to claim 18 is described in the specification at paragraphs [0042] - [0077] and illustrated in the figures. Such a device 20 comprising two parts 30, 40 can be seen, for example, in Figures 1, 2, 4 and 5. The first part has a first surface, and is adapted for attachment to a receptacle. The second part has a second surface. For example, see Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7, where a first part 30 has a first

surface 60 or 60' and is adapted for attachment to a receptacle 10, and a second part 40 has a second surface 80 or 80'. A dispenser orifice 90 formed between the first and second parts opens out directly to the environment. See, for example, Figures 1 and 4-7, where a dispenser orifice 90 that connects the interior of the device 20 to the outside environment is formed between the end wall 37 of the first part 30 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40, and is defined by the gap j between the first surface 60 or 60' of the end wall 37 and the second surface 80 or 80' of the top wall 42.

As recited in claim 18, the second part is adapted for rotational mounting relative to the first part, wherein the second part is capable of rotating between a dispensing position and a closed position. As shown in, for example, Figures 4 and 5, the second part 40 is positioned so as to be rotatable around the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30 between a dispensing position (shown in Figure 5) and a closed or non-dispensing position (shown in Figure 4). The specification at paragraphs [0069] - [0073] describes the rotation of the second part 40 through half a turn relative to the first part 30 to bring the dispenser from a closed position to a dispensing position. The dispensing position is capable of permitting a substance contained in the receptacle to exit or leave the receptacle through the dispenser orifice 90. The closed position closes communication between the dispenser orifice 90 and the inside of the receptacle 10, and thereby prevents a substance contained in the receptacle from passing from the receptacle to the dispenser orifice.

The feature of a first part adapted for attachment to a receptacle, as recited in claim 18, is exemplified by the cross-sectional views of Figures 4 and 5. In particular, the first part 30, which is fixed on an oblong body 12 of the receptacle 10, includes a tubular outer skirt 31, a transverse

wall 32, a tubular extension 33 and an assembly skirt 34. The tubular outer skirt 31 extends the outer surface of the receptacle 10. The transverse wall 32, which extends inwardly from the tubular outer skirt 31, supports tubular extension 33. The tubular extension 33 projects upwardly relative to the transverse wall 32, and includes an upper end wall 37, an annular bead 38, and a lateral opening 50. The assembly skirt 34 is positioned inwardly of outer skirt 31, and includes teeth 35 which are adapted to connect the first part to the neck 11 of the receptacle 10. Together, the tubular outer skirt 31, transverse wall 32 and assembly skirt 34 form a base connected to and surrounding the neck 11 and supporting the tubular extension 33.

As recited in claim 18, the second part is adapted for rotational mounting relative to the first part. More particularly, the second part 40 surrounds the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30 and sits on top of the aforementioned base. The second part 40 includes an outer skirt 41, a top wall 42, and an inner skirt 43. The inner skirt 43 includes an annular rib 44 and a notch 45. The inner skirt is snap-fastened on the annular bead 38 of the tubular extension 33 via the annular rib 44. The notch 45 forms a chamber communicating with the lateral opening 50 when the second part is rotated into a dispensing position, as explained below.

As shown in Figures 1 and 4-7, the top wall 42 of the second part has an opening into which the end wall 37 of the first part extends. A gap is thus formed between the two parts 30, 40 at the top of the device 20 to form a dispenser orifice 90. Specifically, this gap or dispenser orifice 90 is formed between the end wall 37 of the tubular extension 33 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40. As depicted in Figure 6, the dispenser orifice 90 may be defined by a substantially constant gap j between the end wall 37 of the first part and the top wall

42 of the second part. Alternatively, as depicted in Figure 7, the dispenser orifice 90' may be defined by a gap j which is not substantially constant between the end wall 37 of the first part and the top wall 42 of the second part. As shown in Figure 1, the dispenser orifice 90 is annular, surrounded on the outside by the cylindrical wall 80 defining the opening in the top wall 42 of the second part 40 and defined on the inside by the cylindrical wall 60 provided by the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30. As illustrated in Figures 1, 4 and 5, the dispenser orifice 90 connects a setback 52 in the device 20 and the outside or environment. Thus, together, the end wall 37 of the tubular extension 33 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40 form a dispenser orifice 90 that opens out directly to the outside or the environment, as described in claim 18.

The basic functional aspects of the device 20 are described in paragraphs [0069] - [0075] of the specification. As described, and again as recited in claim 18, the second part 40 is capable of rotating between a dispensing position and a closed position. As shown in Figure 4, in the closed position, the lateral opening 50 in the first part 30 is closed by the inner skirt 43 of the second part 40. By rotating the second part 40 relative to the first part 30, the device may be brought into a dispensing position. The dispensing position brings the notch 45 of the inner skirt 43 into registration with the setback 52, which allows a substance to flow from the lateral opening 50 towards the dispenser orifice 90. In this manner, a substance may be distributed from the receptacle 10 into the tubular extension 33 through neck 11, from the tubular extension into the notch 45 through lateral opening 50, from the notch 45 into the setback 52, and from the setback 52 through the annular dispenser orifice 90 to the outside or environment.

Claim 18 also requires one of the first and second surfaces to be rotatable around the other of the first and second

surfaces. As shown in Figure 6, the dispenser orifice 90 is defined between two facing surfaces 60 and 80 that belong respectively to the first and second parts 30, 40. Similarly, Figure 7 shows the dispenser orifice 90' defined between two facing surfaces 60' and 80' that belong to the first and second parts 30, 40, respectively. As explained earlier, the second part 40 is rotatable about the first part 30. As the second part 40 rotates around the first part 30, the surfaces 80 or 80' rotate around the facing surfaces 60 or 60'.

As described in the specification at [0042] - [0077], and illustrated in the figures, independent claim 19 is directed to a device containing a cosmetic or care substance including a dispenser comprising two parts. See, for example, Figures 1, 2, 4 and 5, where a device 20 comprises two parts 30, 40. The first part has a first surface and an axis of rotation, and is attached to a receptacle having a longitudinal axis. The second part has a second surface. See, for example, Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7, where a first part 30 has a first surface 60 or 60' and is attached to a receptacle 10, and a second part 40 has a second surface 80 or 80'. The first part has an axis X which is oriented at an angle to vertical, and the receptacle has a longitudinal axis Z oriented substantially in the vertical direction. As will be described below, the second part rotates about the axis X of the first part, such that the axis X defines an axis of rotation for the second part.

A dispenser opening or orifice is formed between the first and second surfaces. The dispenser orifice opens out directly to the environment. See, for example, Figures 1 and 4-7, where a dispenser orifice 90 that connects the interior of the device 20 to the outside environment is formed between the end wall 37 of the first part 30 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40, and is defined by the gap j between the first surface 60 or 60'

of the end wall 37 and the second surface 80 or 80' of the top wall 42.

In addition, as recited in claim 19, the second part is adapted for rotational mounting relative to the axis of rotation, wherein the second part is capable of rotating between a dispensing position and a closed position. See, for example, Figures 4 and 5, where the second part 40 is positioned so as to be rotatable around the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30 and, hence, about the axis X thereof, between a dispensing position (shown in Figure 5) and a closed or non-dispensing position (shown in Figure 4). As described at paragraphs [0069] - [0073] of the specification, the second part 40 rotates through half a turn relative to the first part 30, and hence relative to the axis X thereof, to bring the dispenser from a closed position to a dispensing position. The dispensing position is capable of permitting a substance contained in the receptacle to exit or leave the device through the dispenser orifice 90. The closed position closes communication between the dispenser orifice 90 and the inside of the receptacle 10, and is therefore capable of preventing a substance contained in the receptacle from passing from the receptacle to the dispenser orifice.

The feature of a first part attached to a receptacle having a longitudinal axis, as recited in claim 19, is exemplified by the cross-sectional views of Figures 4 and 5. Specifically, the first part 30 is fixed on an oblong body 12 of the receptacle 10 having a longitudinal axis Z. The first part 30 includes a tubular outer skirt 31, a transverse wall 32, a tubular extension 33 and an assembly skirt 34. The tubular outer skirt 31 extends the outer surface of the receptacle 10. The transverse wall 32, which extends inwardly from the tubular outer skirt 31, supports tubular extension 33. The tubular extension 33 projects upwardly relative to the transverse wall

32, and has an axis X oriented at an angle relative to longitudinal axis Z. The tubular extension 33 includes an upper end wall 37, an annular bead 38, and a lateral opening 50. The assembly skirt 34 is positioned inwardly of outer skirt 31, and includes teeth 35 which attach the first part 30 to the neck 11 of receptacle 10. Together, the tubular outer skirt 31, transverse wall 32 and assembly skirt 34 form a base connected to and surrounding the neck 11 and supporting the tubular extension 33.

As recited in claim 19, the second part is adapted for rotational mounting relative to the axis of rotation. In particular, the second part 40 surrounds the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30 and sits on top of the aforementioned base. The second part 40 includes an outer skirt 41, a top wall 42, and an inner skirt 43. The inner skirt 43 includes an annular rib 44 and a notch 45. The inner skirt is snap-fastened on the annular bead 38 of the tubular extension 33 via the annular rib 44 such that the second part is rotatable relative to the tubular extension 33 of the first part, and therefore relative to axis X. The notch 45 forms a chamber communicating with the lateral opening 50 when the second part is rotated into a dispensing position, as explained below.

As shown in Figures 1 and 4-7, the top wall 42 of the second part has an opening into which the end wall 37 of the first part extends. A gap is thus formed between the two parts 30, 40 at the top of the device 20 to form a dispenser orifice 90. Specifically, this gap or dispenser orifice 90 is formed between the end wall 37 of the tubular extension 33 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40. As depicted in Figure 6, the dispenser orifice 90 may be defined by a substantially constant gap j between the facing surfaces 60 and 80 of the end wall 37 and top wall 42, respectively. Alternatively, as depicted in Figure 7, the dispenser orifice 90' may be defined by a gap j

which is not substantially constant between the facing surfaces 60' and 80' of the end wall 37 and top wall 42, respectively. As shown in Figure 1, the dispenser orifice 90 is annular, surrounded on the outside by the cylindrical wall 80 defining the opening in the top wall 42 of the second part 40 and defined on the inside by the cylindrical wall 60 provided by the tubular extension 33 of the first part 30. As illustrated in Figures 1, 4 and 5, the dispenser orifice 90 connects a setback 52 in the device 20 and the outside or environment. Thus, together, the end wall 37 of the tubular extension 33 and the top wall 42 of the second part 40 form a dispenser orifice 90 that opens out directly to the outside or the environment, as described in claim 19.

The basic functional aspects of the device 20 are described in paragraphs [0069] - [0075] of the specification. As described, and again as recited in claim 19, the second part 40 is capable of rotating between a dispensing position and a closed position. As shown in Figure 4, in the closed position, the lateral opening 50 in the first part 30 is closed by the inner skirt 43 of the second part 40. By rotating the second part 40 relative to axis X and to the first part 30, the device 20 may be brought into a dispensing position. The dispensing position brings the notch 45 of the inner skirt 43 into registration with the setback 52, which allows a substance to flow from the lateral opening 50 towards the dispenser orifice 90. In this manner, a substance may be distributed from the receptacle 10 (through its neck 11) into the tubular extension 33, from the tubular extension (through its lateral opening 50) into the notch 45, from the notch 45 into the setback 52, and from the setback 52 through the annular dispenser orifice 90 to the outside or environment.

Claim 19 also requires the axis of rotation to be sloped relative to the longitudinal axis. As shown in Figure 4, the

longitudinal axis Z of receptacle 10 is oriented in a substantially vertical direction, while the axis of rotation X is sloped relative to longitudinal axis Z. As explained above, second part 40 rotates about tubular extension 33 and as such rotates around axis X.